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CORRESPONDENCE.

Allowance of Bill of Exceptions by Successor of Trial Judge.

Editor Virginia Law Register: You report in your issue of this month (Vol. 18, p. 922) the case of Southall v. Evans, 76 S. E. 929, in which the Court of Appeals holds in substance that when a judge who has tried a case becomes incapacitated before passing on a proposed bill of exceptions, his successor may allow the bill. In the case of Brent v. Chas. H. Lilly Co., 202 Fed. Rep. 335, the United States District Court for the state of Washington held, on January 30, 1913, that the law is the same in the federal courts, namely, that where the District Judge resigned without ruling on a petition for new trial and settlement of the bill of exceptions, but there was a full stenographic report of the proceedings of the trial, the notice of which were extended, the defeated party was not entitled to a new trial as a matter of right, under Act June 5, 1900, c. 717, 31 Stat. 270 (U. S. Comp. St. 1901, p. 696), providing that, where the trial judge by reason of disability is unable to pass on a motion for new trial and allow a bill of exceptions, his successor shall do so, where the evidence has been taken in stenographic notes.

The opinion of Cushman, District Judge, contains an elaborate list of the authorities pro and con, which can be consulted by any one who desires further to examine the law, either from the State or federal standpoint.

GEORGE BRYAN.

Richmond, Va. April 5, 1913.